

A TRIBUTE TO ALEX CANJA OF
FLINT, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and great American.

In a rich life span of 81 years, Alex Canja mentored thousands of young men and women and then, in later life, became an advocate for older citizens.

On his own, without parents, from the age of 11, Alex raised himself, living at the YMCA in Flint, MI and selling newspapers.

Ever the optimist, determined to succeed, he believed that with hard work and honest effort, his dreams could come true. And they did.

At Flint Central High School, he was elected president of the student body. He served in the US Army Air Force returning to the University of Michigan after the war. He became an All-American diver, was captain of the U of M swimming team, and earned a Master's Degree in Education. It was there that he met and courted Esther Giovannone, also known as "Tess." She became his wife and inseparable companion for 56 years.

He served his community. A teacher, deputy superintendent, and camp director, Alex coached swimming, taught English, and with his wife Tess, built the fledgling summer camp "Camp Flying Eagle" into one of the finest in Michigan. His goal was to provide young boys and men the many opportunities for personal growth and success he knew they needed.

Alex worked for many years with AARP on behalf of the senior citizens of the United States. He served alongside his wife, Tess Canja, who became the National president of AARP. He brought his wit and wisdom to meetings of the spouses and companions of AARP board members, melding them into a support group for themselves and the Board.

He was very proud of Tess and her accomplishments, but also of his daughter, Debbie, son, Jeff, and grandsons, Brian and Scott. Another son, Paul, preceded him in death.

For Tess and Alex Canja, their immortality will be in their contribution to their community, their state, and their nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER
OF WILLIAM K. DAVENPORT

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to salute the life of William K. Davenport. Although Bill passed away in 1999, his personal accomplishments and contributions to the community of Lima, Ohio, are still celebrated today.

Bill became the Chief of the Lima Police Department on May 1, 1968, making him the first African-American in Lima's history to acquire this rank. He earned this commission solely by his own merit, obtaining the highest score on the civil service competition examination. Prior to his appointment as chief, Bill compiled a

commendable record as a law enforcement officer. He served 8 years as patrolman, 5 years as detective, 4 years as sergeant, 7 years as lieutenant and 2 years as inspector of the uniform division before becoming chief.

Bill was known and respected by his colleagues as an amiable and admired leader. A humble man, he faced the brewing racial tension of the Sixties without compromising his principles, even at one point in his career disagreeing with the Mayor of Lima.

Bill is remembered as an exemplary citizen who frequently went above and beyond his official duties to help others. The community of Lima has truly been affected by the noble life Bill led and the excellent public service he gave to the city.

Mr. Speaker, William K. Davenport was a dignified law enforcement officer who earned a wide array of accolades during his 36 year career, including serving as the first African-American Chief of Police in Lima, Ohio. Because of his diligent service to his community, he is worthy of receiving our recognition. I know my colleagues join me in honoring this truly exceptional man.

RECOGNITION OF ALFRED
"MUGSY" BEAN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Alfred "Mugsy" Bean of Jefferson County, Illinois. Mugsy was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Mugsy received this honor for his lifelong service to others. On the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mugsy immediately volunteered for service to his country. He was embroiled in World War II for close to 4 years. For the past 25 years Mugsy has served as a member of American Legion Post 141 Funeral Detail and has worked on the Jefferson County Veteran's Memorial Committee. He is known to treat all with the same respect and to reach out to those in need. Mugsy has been married to Louise for 58 years and has raised four children.

I want to congratulate and thank Mugsy for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

MAYOR FOR THE DAY IN
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a young individual from my district who recently won the honor of "Mayor for the Day" of Elmhurst, Illinois. Miss Carly Hamilton, who is in Sixth Grade at Visitation Catholic School, won this honor by composing the following essay in 50 words or less:

"I love Elmhurst, the greatest city in the greatest country in the world because . . .

Many people might think it's small, but to tell you the truth, it's not at all. Elmhurst has movies and ice cream and chocolates and books, from haircutters to house sellers, from schools to parks. So for me, Elmhurst is the place to be!"

HONORING ALFONZO TORRES

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Alfonso Torres Martinez for his many years of dedicated service to Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control in Dallas, Texas, and also to congratulate him for completing over fifty years of service with the company and its predecessors.

Following two and a half years in the Army, including a year in the Philippines, Al Martinez began his career at then-Chance Vought Aircraft as a Wiring Serviceman Helper at a starting wage of \$1.34 an hour. Through the years, Al has left his mark on numerous missile programs and continues to lend his resilience and determination to MFC programs at the age of 82.

Mr. Speaker, the celebration of fifty plus years of service is a remarkable feat, and I know that the other members of this body will join me in extending our warmest congratulations to Al Martinez on his incredible accomplishment.

RECOGNITION OF CHESTER
CONNAWAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Chester Connaway of Jefferson County, Illinois. Chet was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Chet received this honor for his lifelong service to others. Upon his graduation from Mt. Vernon Township High School he joined the Army. He then served 40 years in the Illinois Army National Guard. He now is the district director for Veterans Affairs Southern Division where he works to secure benefits for deserving veterans. Chet also is a member of the Field Grade School Board of Education and he served twenty years as treasurer of Wesley United Methodist Church. Chet and his wife Barbara have been married 50 years and have raised three daughters.

I want to congratulate and thank Chet for all he has done and will continue to do for the people in his community. He is a saint to all who know him and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, due to a family medical issue, I missed several votes on June

26, 2003. I was not able to be present to vote on H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on passage of H.R. 1, Rollcall No. 332. In addition, had I been present, I would have voted yes on passage of the Military Construction Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004, Rollcall No. 325; yes on H. Res. 277, Expressing Support for Freedom in Hong Kong; yes on passage of the Health Savings and Affordability Act, Rollcall No. 328; and yes on the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, Rollcall No. 333.

RECOGNITION OF NANCY
GERMANN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Nancy Germann of Jefferson County, Illinois. Nancy was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Nancy received this honor for her lifelong service to others. For 33 years she made a positive difference in the lives of students. She loves teaching so much she returned to the classroom after her retirement as a special education aide. Nancy is extremely involved in her church and community. Some of her activities include singing in the church choir, assisting with the soup kitchen and Thanksgiving dinner for the needy, and serving as a director for Cedarhurst Chamber Music along with helping with other Cedarhurst activities.

I want to congratulate and thank Nancy for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community. She is a saint to all who know her and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

TRIBUTE TO E.L. HUTCHISON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. E.L. "Hutch" Hutchison of Durango, Colorado is member of what has been called the "Greatest Generation," those who helped the United States defeat fascism and totalitarianism during World War II. His sacrifices—and those of his fellow soldiers—helped secure the Allied victory and defend the American way of life we enjoy today. I am honored to recognize "Hutch's" service to his nation.

During the war, "Hutch" fought for his nation as a paratrooper with the famous "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, "Hutch" was one of fourteen Screaming Eagles who jumped together from a plane into enemy territory. Only six would survive. As one of those six, "Hutch" continued fighting and heroically carried out his job as a demolition man, clearing out mines and booby traps for the American and Allied troops who would follow.

Mr. Speaker, our nation owes E.L. Hutchison and his fellow soldiers a great debt. Thanks to their efforts, the United States emerged from that terrible war victorious. Even though the war ended 58 years ago, we must never forget the sacrifices "Hutch" and the other American troops made. I am especially privileged to honor E.L. Hutchison today. Thank you for your service, "Hutch," and for helping to ensure that America remains the "Land of the Free."

RECOGNITION OF WILMA KIMMEL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Wilma Kimmel of Jefferson County, Illinois. Wilma was recently inducted into the Senior Saints Hall of Fame of Jefferson County.

Wilma received this honor for her lifelong service to others. She is known as a dedicated wife and mother. She and her husband, Ardell, raised three children. In order to help send her children to college she began work as a secretary for the Mt. Vernon School System where she worked for twenty years. Wilma has been involved with the 4-H Club, Rend Lake Piecemakers Quilt Guild, and Herbs for Health and Fun. No one can say that Wilma is not devoted to her church. At Central Christian Church she is known as a ready and willing hand for wherever there is a need. She is described as one who gets the job done and one who never complains.

I want to congratulate and thank Wilma for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community. She is a saint to all who know her and is deserving of this prestigious honor.

REGARDING THE ACTUARIAL
VALUE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG
BENEFITS OFFERED TO MEDI-
CARE ELIGIBLE ENROLLEES BY
A PLAN UNDER FEDERAL EM-
PLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS
PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was pleased to support H.R. 2631 which guarantees that the legislation designed to provide Medicare recipients with some prescription drug coverage would not lead to the creation of an inferior prescription-drug benefit for retired federal employees.

The Republican version of the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill, which passed the House on June 27, 2003 is a bad piece of legislation for many reasons. One of its many serious flaws is that it could result in a reduction of coverage for federal employees. Because of how the bill was written, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that as many as 1/3 of all retirees who currently have prescription drug coverage through their employer's

private plan will lose their coverage to the generally inferior set of benefits outlined in the House proposal. We cannot allow our retired federal workers to fall victim to capricious business practices geared toward increasing profits above all else. Federal employees who have dedicated many years of their lives to public service deserve to live out their retirement with dignity and security. H.R. 2631 will help achieve this.

The legislation proposes nothing radical in seeking to ensure that the prescription drug package enjoyed by current federal employees will be available to federal retirees as well. Currently there is parity between the two benefits packages. And, this non-partisan effort is dedicated to guaranteeing that this remains true.

Given the difficulties involved in retaining federal employees, we should all recognize that supporting this legislation will help communicate to new and current employees that their efforts and sacrifices are appreciated and will be honored even after they have completed their public service.

The rate of growth of premiums in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP), in comparison to the disproportionately slow growth in the cost of living adjustment (COLA), is a major concern for federal retirees. Since 1998, FEHBP premiums have increased more than 10% per year. Last year alone, FEHBP premiums increased 11%. During the same period, the federal retirement annuity COLA was only 1.4%. It is difficult enough to keep pace with these changes without the added pressure of having to deal with the possibility that the level of choice and service they have grown accustomed to during their employment will suffer in their retirement.

It is important that we do all that we can to help our federal retirees deal with the burden of financial shocks. Therefore I thank those of my colleagues who joined me in supporting H.R. 2631 and I commend Mr. DAVIS of Virginia for introducing the bill.

TRIBUTE TO RICK LUPE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a true American hero. Rick Lupe recently passed away from injuries sustained while battling a prescribed burn on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation near Whiteriver, Arizona. I am saddened by his death and would like to take a moment to reflect on the courage and leadership of this honorable and distinguished individual.

Rick previously made headlines during another fire that took place last summer. When the Rodeo-Chediski fire scorched much of Arizona, Rick engineered a fire line at the last minute, using a back burn and bulldozers that helped save the town of Show Low. Such acts of courage are no surprise to those who knew him. In nearly two decades of service to the Fort Apache Hotshot crew, Rick developed a reputation as a strong but quiet leader, a loyal colleague, and trusted friend.

Rick possessed courage and toughness to spare. While checking on a hot spot recently,